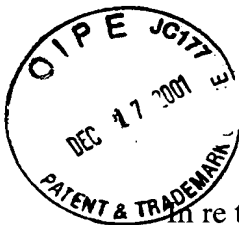


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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yoshitaka SASAKI et al.

Application No.: 09/970,786

Filed: October 5, 2001

Docket No.: 110796

For: SLIDER OF THIN-FILM MAGNETIC HEAD AND METHOD OF  
MANUFACTURING SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 10, lines 6-17, delete current paragraph and insert therefor:

As shown in FIG. 28, the distance between the slider 120 and the recording medium 140 when the slider 120 is flying is about 7 to 9 nm. If the protection film 128 is provided, the distance between the recording medium 140 and the surface of the thin-film magnetic head element 122 closer to the air bearing surface increases by about 4 to 5 nm which corresponds to the thickness of the protection film 128. In view of the foregoing, the magnetic space, that is, the distance between the medium 140 and the surface of the head element 122 closer to the air bearing surface when the slider 120 is flying, is about 15 nm. When the magnetic space is of such a degree, attainable areal density is limited to about 80 to 100 gigabits per square inch.

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